

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

January 22, 2009 For immediate release

1. Public invited to comment on proposed rules for winter manure application

PUBLIC INVITED TO COMMENT ON PROPOSED RULES FOR WINTER MANURE APPLICATION

MEDIA CONTACT: Claire Hruby at (515) 242-6848 or Claire.hruby@dnr.iowa.gov

DES MOINES – The public and livestock producers are invited to comment on proposed rules that would limit winter manure application to the times and conditions least likely to cause water quality problems.

The proposed rule would restrict surface application of manure on frozen or snow-covered ground. If manure can be incorporated or injected any time of year, these rules would not apply. Research in Iowa and Wisconsin shows that nutrient runoff is least likely to occur when manure is applied on bare ground early in the season. The proposed rules would primarily affect animal producers who are required to have a manure or nutrient management plan. Also, producers who cause water quality violations may become subject to these rules in the future.

The rules are available online at www.iowadnr.gov/epc/09jan/5.pdf

People can make oral comments or submit comments in writing at the following public hearings:

9 a.m., March 16: Wallace State Office Building Auditorium, 502 E. Ninth St., Des Moines

6 p.m., March 16: Washington County Conservation Education Center, Marr Park, 2943 Highway 92, Ainsworth

6 p.m., March 18: Dedham American Legion, 302 Main St., Dedham

1 p.m., March 20: Room 115, Dairy Foundation's Dairy Center, 1527 Highway 150 South, Calmar

6 p.m., March 23: City Hall, 125 Central Ave. S.E., Orange City

6 p.m., March 24: Lime Creek Nature Center, 3501 Lime Creek Road, Mason City

People may also send written comments directly to Claire Hruby, Iowa DNR, 502 E. Ninth St., Des Moines, IA 50319, or by email to <u>Claire.hruby@dnr.iowa.gov</u>. All comments must be submitted by 5 p.m. on March 27.